

Hi everyone. And thank you, Lydia.

My name is Josh Comas-Race. I'm part of a really life-giving community group here at Reservoir.

Together, we have been going through the church's shared exploration of Matthew 5, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and most recently the Beatitudes.

And like we do here at church, we like to uncover new spiritual practices that help us deepen our relationship with God and learn to see God in each other.

And since this week, we read Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" we tried something new, which I'm going to try and share with all of you this morning.

Because to us, "meek" is not a word we use anymore. It doesn't mean much to us. But when Jesus says "Blessed are the meek" he is referring to groups and individuals – maybe even names and faces – that the people listening to him speak would have immediately known.

And so, today, we tried to do the same thing. To think about what person or what whole community is "meek." And by that we mean ignored. Not listened to. Disenfranchised. Forgotten, or marginalized.

What we're going to do right now, together, is Rewrite the Beatitudes.

I'm going to give us all a few minutes of prayerful (awkward but welcome) silence, and we are all going to fill in this line:

"Blessed are the _____, for s/he/they are _____."

You can think of it like poetry, or filling in the blank. The hope I have is that we can pry open the door on what God is trying to say to us through this passage. And together, we can uncover in a more personal, timely way what Jesus means.

If you find a line that speaks to you, and you're comfortable with it, write it in the chat for me. (It only goes to me and the pastors here.)

And if you share it, I will do my best to read the lines anonymously, so we can experience what God is saying to – and through – all of us, together.

And while you do this, pay attention to two things:

1. You may feel uncomfortable "rewriting" scripture. If you're like me, it might feel like you're breaking the rules, or not treating the bible delicately enough. So pay

attention to that feeling, and invite God to speak to you through that. *God, why am I uncomfortable with this? What are you saying to me?*

2. You may also feel uncomfortable on behalf of the “meek” ones you are blessing. When we did this in community group, the example I shared was “Blessed is Breonna Taylor, for she will transform the world.” It may feel like you are not honoring these people enough. And it’s okay to follow the creative intuition you have, because I believe God and Holy Spirit is delivering us through this exercise.

Know that what we are doing right now is – quite literally – blessing the people in our world who need it most. So be free to explore with Holy Spirit who it is you may need to put in that “blank”.

Now we’ll take a minute, and I’ll read a few of these.

[reading lines]

Thank you, everyone.

Back to you.